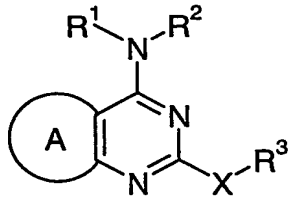
Claims

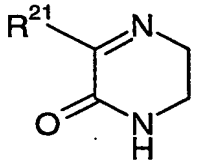
1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

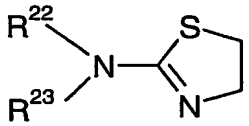
wherein:

A represents a group of formula (a) or (b) or (c):



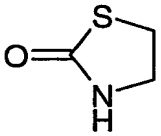
(a)

or



(b)

or



(c)

R^1 and R^2 independently represent H, C1 to 8 alkyl, C2 to 8 alkenyl, C2 to 8 alkynyl or C3 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl; the latter four groups being optionally further substituted by one or more groups selected independently from OH, C1 to 6 alkoxy, CH_2OR^4, NR^5R^6, CO_2R^7 and $CONR^8R^9$;

R^3 represents C1 to 6 alkyl, C2 to 6 alkenyl, C2 to 6 alkynyl or C3 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl; said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl chain optionally including a O, NR^{10} or S atom in the chain; said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group being optionally substituted by phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to

3 heteroatoms selected independently from O, S and N; said phenyl or heteroaromatic ring being optionally further substituted by one or more groups selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, OH, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CN, $CO2R^{11}$, $NR^{12}R^{13}$, $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, SO_2R^{16}, $NR^{17}SO_2R^{18}$ and $SO_2NR^{19}R^{20}$;

X represents O or S(O);

R^{21} represents H, CH_2OR^{24}, $CH_2NR^{24}R^{25}$, CO_2R^{24} or $CONR^{24}R^{25}$;

R^{22} and R^{23} independently represent H, C1 to 6 alkyl, C2 to 6 alkenyl or C3 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl; said alkyl, alkenyl or cycloalkyl group being optionally substituted by OR^{24}, $NR^{24}R^{25}$, CO_2R^{24} or $CONR^{24}R^{25}$; or the group $-NR^{22}R^{23}$ together represents a 3 to 7 membered saturated azacyclic ring optionally incorporating one further heteroatom selected from O, $S(O)_n$ and NR^{26}; and optionally substituted by OR^{24}, $NR^{24}R^{25}$, CO_2R^{24} or $CONR^{24}R^{25}$;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} independently represent H or C1 to 6 alkyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^1 represents H or CH_3.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein R^2 represents C1 to 8 alkyl substituted by OH or C3 to 7 cycloalkyl substituted by OH or CH_2OR^4.

4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein R3 represents C1 to 2 alkyl substituted by phenyl; said phenyl being optionally substituted by halogen, C1 to 6 alkoxy or CN.

5. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

6. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

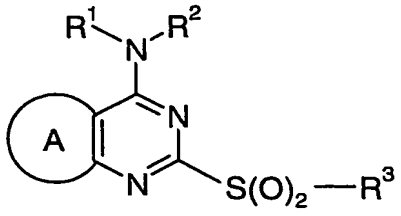
7. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, a human disease or condition in which antagonism of the CX_3CR1 receptor is beneficial which comprises administering to a person suffering from or susceptible to such a disease or condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of human diseases or conditions in which antagonism of the CX_3CR1 receptor is beneficial.

9. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of neurodegenerative disorders, demyelinating disease, atherosclerosis or pain.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the process comprises:

(a) when X in formula (I) represents O, reaction of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

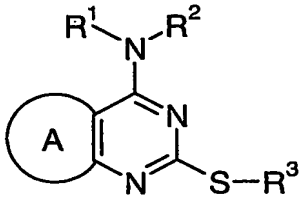
wherein A, R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Claim 1;

with a compound of formula (III)

(III)

wherein R^3 is as defined in Claim 1 and is independent of the R^3 group in formula (II); or

(b) when X in formula (I) represents S(O), oxidation of a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein A, R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Claim 1; with one equivalent of an oxidising agent;

and where necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into a further compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.